

Message Text

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EXDIS-DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. ASSIGNMENT OF US REPRESENTATIVES TO DAMASCUS

DURING A VISIT TO DAMASCUS, AMBASSADOR BUFFUM FROM BEIRUT WAS TOLD BY PRESIDENT ASSAD THAT THE SYRIANS WOULD WELCOME AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL FOR USINT DAMASCUS. THE SYRIANS WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO THE ASSIGNMENT OF TWO AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC OFFICERS TO THE USINT SECTION OF THE ITALIAN EMBASSY AND TWO OR THREE AMERICAN STAFF PERSONNEL. THE SECTION CHIEF COULD BE OF FIRST SECRETARY OR COUNSELOR RANK AND THE US IS WELCOME TO OPEN ITS REPRESENTATION AT AN EARLY DATE. (SECRET) BEIRUT 14315, 12/18 (EXDIS).

2. JAPANESE BIDDING ON LIBYAN CRUDE

A JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL HAS INFORMED EMBASSY TOKYO THAT HIS MINISTRY WILL BE INSTRUCTING ITS EMBASS* IN TRIPOLI TO ADVISE THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT THAT A MEMBER OF THE LOWER *HOUSE OF THE DIET, IN A NON-GOVERNMENTAL

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CAPACITY, WILL BE ACTING AS A CONTACT AND INTERMEDIARY FOR PRIVATE JAPANESE FIRMS INTERESTED IN BIDDING FOR LIBYAN OIL. THE OFFICIAL EMPHASIZED THAT THE JAPANESE

GOVERNMENT HAS NO INTENTION OF ENCOURAGING BIDDING ON DISPUTED OIL AND IS IN NO POSITION TO INTERVENE IN SUCH TRANSACTIONS. (CONFIDENTIAL) TOKYO 16314, 12/18.

3. VENEZUELAN CONCERN ABOUT SUPPLY OF RAW MATERIALS

COMMENTS BY VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT-ELECT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ TO THE EFFECT THAT VENEZUELA'S PETROLEUM SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A LEVER TO OBTAIN RAW MATERIALS HAS LED EMBASSY CARACAS TO CONCLUDE THAT THIS POLICY IS GAINING IMPRIMATUR OF THE COUNTRY'S FUTURE LEADERS. ALTHOUGH THE MAJORITY OF COMMODITIES THAT VENEZUELA NEEDS ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY WORLDWIDE, FERROUS SCRAP IS A SPECIAL CASE IN THAT IT IS THE ONLY COMMODITY OVER WHICH US IS EXERCISING EXPORT CONTROL. (CONFIDENTIAL) CARACAS 10780, 12/18. RUSH

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